



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

AUGUST 25, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARM VIOLATION, DRUG TRAFFICKING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today after being convicted of using a firearm in a drug trafficking offense.

Vaughn Wattree, 39, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 1, 2003, **Wattree** was found guilty of one of three counts charged against him in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 12, 2003. **Wattree** had earlier pleaded guilty to the other two counts, related to his participation in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Greene County, Mo.

Wattree was arrested on Aug. 29, 2003, in Kansas City, during an illegal drug transaction in which he had arranged to sell a kilogram of cocaine to a Springfield, Mo., man for distribution in Greene County, Graves said. **Wattree** carried a loaded Smith and Wesson .357 magnum revolver in his waistband during that transaction.

A federal jury found **Wattree** guilty of being in possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense. Specifically, Graves explained, **Wattree** was convicted of possessing a Smith and Wesson .57 caliber revolver while in possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Earlier, on Nov. 24, 2003, **Wattree** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute in excess of 500 grams of cocaine in Greene County between January 2003, and Aug. 29, 2003. He also pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of cocaine on Aug. 29, 2003, in Jackson County.

Wattree is the fourth and final co-defendant sentenced in this case.

On June 14, 2004, **Misty D. Russell**, 23, of Springfield, was sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison without parole. **Russell** pleaded guilty on Nov. 24, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine in Greene County between January 2003, and Aug. 29, 2003.

On June 16, 2004, **Brandon K. Scott**, 29, of Springfield, was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Scott** pleaded guilty on Nov. 25, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine in Greene County between January 2003, and Aug. 29, 2003.

On June 17, 2004, **Wilberforce Cousins**, 31, of Springfield, was sentenced to five years of probation, including six months of home detention. **Cousins** pleaded guilty on Nov. 26, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine in Greene County between January 2003, and Aug. 29, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team (COMET).

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow